

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RP,TBIO

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN - PHILIPPINE MARINE BIOLOGY
PROJECT

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR NEWSOM FROM
KENNEDY SCHMERTZ, SMITHSONIAN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS:

1. "APROPOS OUR DISCUSSION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO ABOUT
SMITHSONIAN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN EAST ASIA, UNLIKE
INDONESIA WHERE WE HAVE NO CURRENT LARGE SCALE RESEARCH,
SMITHSONIAN'S, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
PLANNING INITIATE IN PHILIPPINES IN MAY 1978 MAJOR MULTI-
YEAR PROJECT FOR COLLECTION OF AQUATIC FLORA AND FAUNA
FOR SYSTEMATICS AND ECOLOGY STUDIES. RESEARCH TO BE
CONDUCTED BY SMITHSONIAN SCIENTISTS WORKING IN COOPERATION
WITH BIOLOGISTS OF SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY, DUMAGUETE CITY.
SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY COOPERATION COORDINATED BY VICE
PRESIDENT ANGEL C. ALCALA, WHO ALSO IN CHARGE SILLIMAN'S
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SUBSTANTIAL POLLUTION RESEARCH PROGRAM. MR. INOCENCIO A.
RONQUILLO, CHIEF, FISHERIES RESEARCH DIVISION, BUREAU OF
FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES, MANILA, ALSO ARRANGING COLLABORATION HIS DEPART-
MENT THIS PROJECT. COOPERATION PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
RESEARCH COUNCIL BEING SOUGHT CURRENTLY BY PHILIPPINE

SCIENCE ATTACHE WASHINGTON, DR. PERFECTO GUERRERO.
COLLABORATOR AT UNIVERSITY OF PHILIPPINES IS DR. EDGARDO
D. GOMEZ, MARINE SCIENCES CENTER.

2. WE FEEL THAT THIS PROJECT IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE 1)
FOR BASIC KNOWLEDGE MARINE LIFE PHILIPPINE AREA WHERE

NO SUCH COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN SINCE PRIOR
WW-II, AND 2) TO PROVIDE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FOR PHILIPPINE FISHERIES AS WELL AS FOR FAO PROGRAMS
ASSESS AGRICULTURAL AND MINERALS INDUSTRY POLLUTION
MARINE FLORA AND FAUNA. EXPECT AS WELL TO IDENTIFY MARINE
SPECIES FOR FOOD, FISH AND SEAWEED, AQUARIUM FISH EXPORT,
AND SHELL PRODUCT INDUSTRIES. FAO INTEREST KNOWN TO BE
STRONG SINCE THEY NOW WORKING ON ATLAS OF FOOD FISHES IN
AREA AND HAVE CALLED UPON SMITHSONIAN FOR ASSISTANCE IN
SPECIES IDENTIFICATION.

3. FOR YOUR BACKGROUND, COPIES OF SMITHSONIAN TEAM
LEADER, DR. H. ADAIR FEHLMANN'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH
PHILIPPINE COLLABORATORS BEING POUCHED.

4. INITIAL FIELD SEASON PLANNED FOR MAY AND JUNE 1978
TO COVER ONLY SMALL SAMPLE OF OVER 7,000 ISLANDS
PHILIPPINES GROUP. TEAM OF SIX, INCLUDING FOUR ZOOLOGISTS,
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ONE ALGOLOGIST AND ONE DIVING SUPERVISOR MAKE UP TEAM
WORKING FIRST STAGE. IN INITIAL STAGE, TEAM WILL BE
BASED ON NEGROS ORIENTAL.

5. MOST SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED BY
SMITHSONIAN AND WILL AMOUNT TO SOME 4 TONS PACKED IN
26 SEALED 55 GALLON DRUMS CONTAINING CURATORIAL EQUIP-
MENT-NOTEBOOKS, PLASTIC CONTAINERS - CAMPING EQUIPMENT
AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS. SIX OF THESE DRUMS WILL CONTAIN
CHEMICALS FOR PRESERVING SPECIMENS - ETHANOL AND FORMALIN.
SEVERAL COLLAPSIBLE RUBBER BOATS AND SCUBA GEAR WILL BE
CRATED AND SENT LATER BY AIR FREIGHT. VALUABLE ITEMS

LIKE CAMERAS WILL BE HAND CARRIED.

6. SMITHSONIAN WOULD LIKE TO ASK EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN
THREE MATTERS: 1) WE WOULD LIKE TO CONSIGN EQUIPMENT
AND SUPPLIES SHIPMENTS TO EMBASSY; 2) WHILE WE ARE
ARRANGING FOR SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY TO FETCH SHIPMENTS
FROM MANILA, WE WOULD LIKE EMBASSY TO HOLD THESE MATERIALS
SECURE UNTIL UNIVERSITY CAN MAKE TRANSSHIPMENT ARRANGE-
MENTS; AND 3), SINCE SMITHSONIAN TEAM, BEARING OFFICIAL

PASSPORTS, WILL CARRY NO FOODSTUFFS, WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES PURCHASE ITEMS NOT REASONABLY AVAILABLE ON PHILIPPINE LOCAL MARKET. WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE FIRST TWO REQUESTS ASAP SINCE SURFACE SHIPMENT SHOULD BE ARRANGED VERY SOON.

7. IF ANY OF THESE REQUESTS IMPRACTICABLE, YOUR ADVICE ON ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

8. I HOPE THAT THE EMBASSY WILL FIND THIS PROJECTED SMITHSONIAN - PHILIPPINE SCIENCE COLLABORATION TO BE IMPORTANT ADDITION TO U.S. PROGRAMS UNDER YOUR SUPERVISION. I AM URGING OUR PARTICIPANTS TO KEEP IN CLOSE
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TOUCH WITH EMBASSY AS PROJECT UNFOLDS. IN THIS RESPECT, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE YOUR SUGGESTION OF EMBASSY OFFICER WHO COULD BE APPROPRIATE POINT OF CONTACT. CHRISTOPHER

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